indiscipline resorted to by a section of the local police. The services of 79 police personnel involved in this agitation, have since been terminated by the State Government, and 42 persons have been arrested in connection with their activities during the agitation. A Commandant and Dy. Commandant of JKAP have also been placed under suspension.

Inquiry Commission into Meham Incident

*239. *SHRI T. A. MOHAMMED SAQHY.*

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many Commissions were constituted to probe into Meham episode, date of constitution of each Commission and its terms alongwith the amount spent on each commission.

(b) when will the terms of the present Justice Saikia Commission come to an end;

(c) how many times in the past the term of Justice Saikia Commission was extended alongwith details of each extension and the reason for the same; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to extend the term any further; if so, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) to (d) The Union Government had constituted a Meham Commission of Inquiry on 24th July, 1990 to enquire into the incidents in the Meham Constituency in Haryana on the eve of a bye-election in 1990. The terms of the Commission are to make an inquiry with respect to:

(i) the circumstances immediately preceding and resulting in the death; during the night of 16th/17th May, 1990, of Shri Amir Singh, one of the candidates in the bye-election to the Haryana Legislative Assembly from Meham Constituency;

(ii) facts relating to the violent incidents in village Madina and the role of the police authorities therein; and

(iii) any other matter connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The term of the Meham Commission of Inquiry shall end on 31st October, 1993.

The term of the Meham Commission of Inquiry was extended as follows:

	Date of Notification	*Period extended*
(i)	23-10-1990	up to 23-4-1991
(ii)	16-4-1991	up to 30-6-1991
(iii)	29-6-1991	up to 30-9-1991
(iv)	19-9-1991	up to 31-1-1992
(v)	30-1-1992	up to 31-7-1992
(vi)	30-7-1992	up to 31-1-1993
(vii)	28-1-1993	up to 30-4-1993
(viii)	10-4-1993	up to 31-10-1993

There is no proposal to extend the term of the Commission beyond 31st October, 1993. An expenditure of Rs. 52,64,000 has been incurred on the Commission during the period 24 July, 1990 to 30 April, 1993

Arsenic Related Diseases in West Bengal

*240. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of people in West Bengal are dying due to arsenic related diseases;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to send a Central Team to West Bengal to know the cause of the arsenic related diseases;

(c) whether Government also propose to seek the help of WHO for the patients off arsenic related diseases in West Bengal; and

(d) if so, what other remedial steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) According to the State Government no deaths have taken place.

(b) The All India Institute of Hygiene & Public Health, Calcutta and the National Drinking Water Mission have already carried out indepth studies in the matter.

(c) Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi have reported that an expert from the World Health Organisation has also visited the affected areas.

(d) The National Drinking Water Mission have asked the State Government to arrange for alternative water supply to the affected villages and if, equired, prepare project for assistance from Govt. of India.

Setting up a Central Zoo Authority

1701. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:
SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Central Zoo Authority was set up during 1992;

(b) if so, what are its objective; and

(c) to what extent those objectives have been achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The objectives of the Central Zoo Authority are as under:

1. to have a unifrom pattern of scientific zoo management in the country.

2. to specify the minimum standards for housing upkeep and veterinary care of the animals kept in a zoo.

3. to evaluate and assess the functioning of zoos with resect to the standards or norms prescribed.

4. to recognise or derecognise a zoo.

5. to identify endangered species of wild animals for purpose of captive breeding and assigning responsibility in this regard to a zoo;

6. To coordinate the acquisition; exchange and loaning of animals for breeding purpose.

7. to ensure maintenance of stud books of endangered species of wild animals bred in captivity.